

2006 Local Accomplishments

AID FOR TOWNS IN THE 3RD SENATE DISTRICT

A very important part of my job representing the people of the 3rd state Senate District is ensuring East Hartford, East Windsor, Ellington and South Windsor receive their fair share of state funding. I am pleased to report the following grants and reimbursements from the state:

Total Education Grants	\$60,383,517	This funding is an increase of \$1,248,695 over last year's budget
Town Aid Road Fund (TAR)	\$787,344	
Mashantucket Pequot/Mohegan Grants	\$745,109	
Local Capital Improvements (LoCIP)	\$759,380	
Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)	\$1,211,419	
Extra Property Tax Relief for 2006	\$717,300	
Totals	\$64,604,069	



Improving Buckland Hills Traffic
Earlier this month, a private consultant hired by the state Department of Transportation began work on a massive, \$500,000 study to determine how traffic flows can be improved in the Buckland corridor, which includes many of the state and local roads around the Shoppes at Buckland Hills in Manchester and Evergreen Walk in South Windsor. I worked to secure funds for this study two years ago at the request of South Windsor town officials, and I'm proud to see this vital project finally get off the ground. A full report is expected in about a year.

Making Rentschler Field work for East Hartford and the region

The state legislature has approved \$25 million in bonding for various infrastructure and road improvements to the 850-acre Rentschler Field site in East Hartford. That money will help to induce commercial and high-tech businesses to begin operations there, making East Hartford a regional hub for economic growth and prosperity. At the same time, another \$825,000 in state economic development funds have been earmarked for the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology in East Hartford to help this cutting-edge think tank develop a statewide plan for using more clean-burning, fiscally responsible hydrogen fuel.

Saving Ellington's Pinney House

Earlier this month, the State Bond Commission approved a \$500,000 Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant to help save and relocate the historic and endangered Pinney House in Ellington. Last year I began the fight to secure state money to save this beloved local landmark, and I'm proud to say that my efforts and the efforts of concerned local citizens have finally paid off.

More for South Windsor Recreation

The state Office of Policy and Management is expected to soon release \$50,000 to help South Windsor's children: \$13,000 for improvements to the Ellsworth School gymnasium, and \$37,000 for a 'high ropes' confidence course at Nevers Park. Funds for these projects were requested after discussions with members of the South Windsor Town Council and Recreation Department, who share my desire for more and better recreational opportunities for our local kids.



House parties pose a significant risk to our young people who consume alcohol on private property. The General Assembly passed a new law this session that makes it a crime to knowingly allow underage drinking on your private property or to do nothing to prevent such activity. This legislation also extends the law prohibiting the possession of alcohol by a minor on public property to all private property as well.

A Message to My Constituents




Dear Neighbors,

On May 3rd, the 2006 legislative session came to a close. Our state Constitution dictates the beginning and closing times for each legislative session, and this year was the shortest possible—only 85 days. In this short time, the General Assembly passed significant initiatives to make Connecticut a better place to work, live and educate our children. I have included some highlights of the session in this newsletter.

I am especially proud that a bipartisan budget was adopted that provides tax relief for automobiles, real estate and businesses while returning money to cities and towns to help hold down local property taxes. This includes an increase—from \$400 to \$500—on the state property tax credit.

Please let me know if you have questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Gary LeBeau
State Senator, 3rd District

Stay Informed...

For the latest information on the issues affecting your district, please visit my Web site:
www.senatedems.ct.gov/LeBeau.html



TO RECEIVE MORE INFORMATION on any of the following issues, fill out this form and mail it to me, e-mail or call my office. Make sure to give your name and mailing address and indicate which issues you're interested in. My contact information is on the mailing address panel.

- ☐ Seniors
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Land Use
- ☐ Environment
- ☐ Crime
- ☐ Education
- ☐ Children
- ☐ Municipalities

Name: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____ Zip: _____

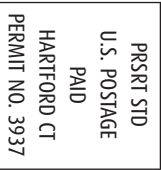
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I'm proud to represent the 3rd state Senate District which includes the communities of East Hartford, East Windsor, Ellington and South Windsor



CONNECTICUT JOBS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

2006 Legislative Initiatives

A recent study probably shocked the state with the information that since 1991, Connecticut has experienced no net job growth. My Senate Democratic colleagues and I initiated a comprehensive plan to address the need for job growth in order to steer our state toward a brighter future. Our legislative package invests in education, jobs, university/business partnerships, transportation improvements, and the promotion of promising fuel cell technologies that have been developed right here in our own backyard.

Highlights of our successful initiative include:

- **Elimination of the Manufacturing Machinery and Equipment property tax** to attract more manufacturing jobs to Connecticut, especially the cutting-edge, precision manufacturing that is critical to our future economy
- **Tax incentives to attract movie companies** to film their productions here in Connecticut
- **Linking promising new businesses to the university expertise** that can help bring innovative products to market
- **A Center for Entrepreneurship** that will assist promising technologies—including fuel cells—develop right here in our state
- **More funding for incumbent worker training programs**, provided by regional workforce development boards, to help workers learn new and valuable skills
- **Creation of business incubators to help grow the small business ideas** that will fuel our future economy and improve job creation across the state
- **Development Research and Economic Assistance Matching (DREAM) grants** that supplement and increase small businesses' access to federal research grants
- **A Business Advocate's office** to serve as a one-stop contact point for businesses to access government assistance and cut through red tape
- **Encouraging more engineering and doctoral research graduates to stay and work in Connecticut** through a 'Scholar-to-Work' system which ensures that innovation and creativity will remain a hallmark of Connecticut's future in the growing world marketplace
- **Partnerships between local schools and businesses** to help more students master math and science as building blocks to careers in competitive fields
- **Teacher 'externships'** that help link the skills taught in classrooms to those sought by employers, and providing opportunities for students to participate in internship and job-shadow experiences that will help them build relevant job skills
- **Asserting Connecticut's position as a global leader in the fuel cell industry** by improving clean energy alternatives in ways that grow jobs in this highly skilled sector
- **Promoting nanotechnology**—an industry that works at the molecular level—to establish Connecticut as a leader in developing complex materials sold to businesses around the world

STATE SENATOR GARY LEBEAU 3RD DISTRICT

Working for Connecticut's Future



Recognizing Our Veterans

The debt owed our state's veterans can never be paid in full. During the 2006 session, the legislature continued

to recognize the service of our brave men and women by passing new laws aimed at paying part of this debt. These new laws include exempting disability payments from determining eligibility for certain income based property tax exemptions for veterans, extending the same protections to state service members assigned to state duties as they would be entitled to on federal duty, and expanding the definition of veteran to include reservists and National Guardsmen.

Connecticut's Farms

Trumpeting our Connecticut-grown farm products is excellent publicity for our state. We passed legislation that requires the Department of Agriculture to establish a campaign, including television and radio advertisements, to promote the advantages of purchasing these products. In addition, we expanded the types of products that can be sold at farmers' markets. We also provided funding to UConn to expand their Integrated Pest Management program, which promotes pest control through safe and effective methods and is crucial for crop productivity and quality.

Tax Credits for Historic Structures

Our state has many older, historic structures that are now vacant and in desperate need of rehabilitation. We passed legislation that authorizes \$15 million per year in business tax credits for funds spent rehabilitating

these properties for residential use. This type of incentive will help restore and beautify these buildings while providing housing and reinvestment to our communities.

Physical Health Needs of Students

Unfortunately, many kids today are not active enough, an issue that has been cited as a factor in the childhood obesity epidemic. A new law requires the state Department of Education to issue guidelines that school boards can use to develop local plans regarding opportunities for exercise at schools and in the community.

Health Insurance Coverage for Breast Cancer Screening

Early and accurate diagnosis is the key to the most effective treatment of breast cancer. Due to new legislation we passed this year, certain insurance companies will be required to cover comprehensive ultrasound screening for women with increased risk factors for breast cancer, as well as those whose mammograms indicate dense breast tissue. This law will help more women gain access to the best screening tools medical science can offer.



Hospital-Acquired Infections

We have all heard about people who went into hospitals to get better, but unfortunately developed infections after being admitted. A new law will create a reporting system, providing the public with necessary information

to compare infection rates at health care facilities in Connecticut. The system may also provide information about methods used to prevent the spread of infection. Beginning October 2008, this information will be published on a state Web site.



Energy Efficiency

To help residents with energy costs, we passed legislation last October that exempted certain weatherization products—such as insulation,

programmable thermostats, and energy-efficient furnaces and boilers—from the state sales tax. This session, we extended the exemption until June 30, 2007. We also passed legislation that requires certain state construction projects to meet stricter energy and environmental standards. This will help save state taxpayers money while promoting energy efficiency.

Allowing Cash Discounts for Gasoline and Banning Zone Pricing

The Senate adopted what would have been a "first-in-the-nation" ban on gasoline zone pricing. The proposal prohibited gasoline refiners and producers from establishing price zones based on geography or other criteria. The legislation also allowed gasoline retailers to provide cash discounts to their customers, and required retailers to set prices based on the cost of gasoline in their possession and not on anticipated spikes in the market. Unfortunately, this bill did not become law.

Banning Internet or E-mail "Phishing"

The legislature adopted tough standards regarding the use of the Internet or e-mail messaging—known as "phishing"—to obtain a person's identifying information by posing as an online business. The attorney general

or victims of phishing may sue to recover damages and restrain the offender from further violations. Courts may award up to \$25,000 or actual damages, whichever is greater. If the offender is found to be a persistent violator, the court may award triple damages.



With the help of an increasing budget surplus, we were able to make many improvements to our existing FY '07 budget. And importantly, we were able to pass this budget on time and with bipartisan support. We wisely used state resources to make significant investments in programs beneficial to the health, safety and education of Connecticut's residents. In addition, we are funding a cutting-edge economic development program designed to create the kind of jobs needed to keep Connecticut vital and competitive in the 21st century.

We increased vital aid to cities and towns by \$60 million—an action necessary to help keep local property taxes down; deposited approximately \$350 million into the Rainy Day Fund; and fully funded the state Teachers' Retirement Fund in both FY '06 and FY '07 with \$246 million from the state surplus. Finally, one of our greatest achievements in this budget was to fight any effort to repeal the current property tax credit on the state income tax. In fact, we successfully fought to increase the car and property tax credit from \$400 to \$500.